

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Catch brake [(1)] for a trunk lid of a motor vehicle, especially a passenger car, for slowing the opening movement of the trunk lid upon reaching its open position, wherein a tubular hinge bail [(3)] of the trunk lid is braked by a clamping action in an essentially U-shaped clamping receiver [(4)] and is prevented from rebounding, characterized in that the clamping receiver [(4)] is provided with tapering lateral brake cheeks [(5)] which form a continuous taper in the direction of the opening motion, so that a narrowing clamping receiver [(4)] is formed between them, that the brake cheeks [(5)] are elastically flexible to one another and that the lateral brake cheeks [(5)] are joined together by a resiliently deformable connecting link [(6)] which has means (2) for mounting the catch brake [(1)].

2. (currently amended) Catch brake [(1)] according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the brake cheeks [(5)] are so configured that a continuously tapering clamping receiver [(4)] is formed in which the hinge bail [(3)] can enter without head-on collision in the clamping receiver [(4)].

3. (currently amended) Catch brake [(1)] according to claim 1 [or 2], ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the brake cheeks [(5)] are formed from a hard plastic material, especially polyoxymethylene, that is resistant to attrition.

4. (currently amended) Catch brake [(1)] according to ~~any one of the foregoing claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the catch brake [(1)] consists of a multi-component plastic piece, wherein the connecting link [(6)] is formed from a softer plastic than the lateral brake cheeks [(5)].

5. (currently amended) Catch brake [(1)] according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lateral brake cheeks [(5)] are formed from a relatively hard core which is embedded in a softer plastic material.

6. (currently amended) Trunk lid opening device of a motor vehicle, by means of which a trunk lid is movable from a closed to an open position, a catch brake [(1)] being provided for slowing the opening movement of the trunk lid upon reaching its open position, and wherein a tubular hinge bail [(3)] of the trunk lid is slowed by a clamping action in an essentially U-shaped clamping receiver [(4)] and prevented from rebounding, characterized in that the catch brake [(1)] has lateral brake cheeks [(5)] with a continuous taper in the direction of the open position between them to form an increasingly narrowing clamping receiver [(4)], that the brake cheeks [(5)] are elastically flexible to one another and that the lateral brake cheeks [(5)] are joined together by a resiliently deformable connecting link [(6)] which has fastening means (2) of the catch brake [(1)].

7. (currently amended) Trunk lid opening device according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein an automatic system for opening the trunk lid is provided.